



Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

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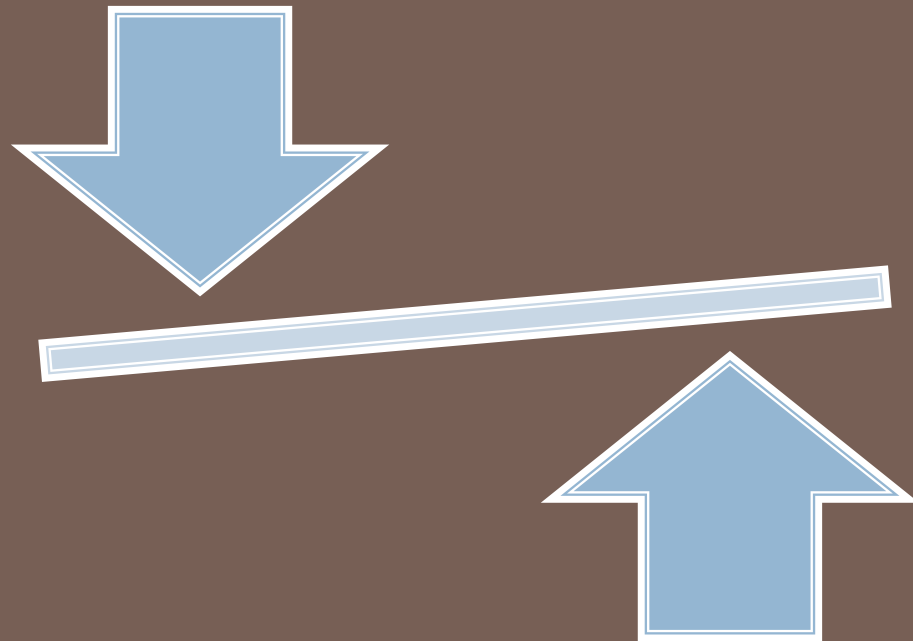
» DMST/CSEC is a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud or coercion *OR the person induced to perform such an act is not 18 years old.*

Commercial Sex Act- Any sex act which something of value is given or received by either person. It does not have to be money, giving drugs for sex also applies.



➤ A minor ***cannot*** legally consent to a commercial sex act. Therefore neither force, fraud nor coercion is a necessary element to qualify as DMST.

➤ Most children become involved in DMST between the ages of 12-14.



Force, Fraud, Coercion

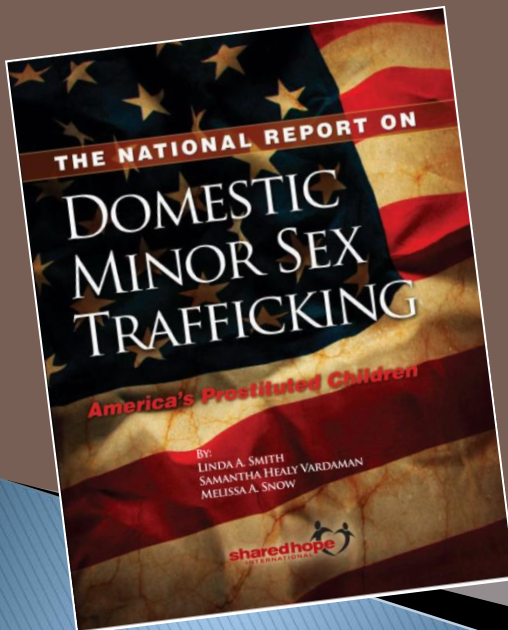
- ▶ *Force:*
 - Physical restraint, bodily harm (physical or sexual), or confinement
- ▶ *Fraud:*
 - Deceitful employment offers or work conditions, false promises, or withholding wages
- ▶ *Coercion:*
 - Threats of serious harm, bodily harm against *any* person, abuse of legal process, withholding legal documents, creating a climate of fear

Most Common Entries

- 1) **Family-** parent or sibling may trade child for drugs or money.
- 2) **Gorilla Pimp-** may kidnap and hold child against their will. They control through violence and isolation.
- 3) **Romeo Pimp-** this is the “boyfriend” pimp. He uses courtship and gifts to romance the girls. Once he has them hooked he introduces the idea of turning tricks. He uses a mix of affection and violence.
- 4) **Survival Sex-** for a place to stay, food...
- 5) **Gang Controlled-** women have no value other than what they can be used for. Money over Bitches.

The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Shared Hope International received a grant from the Department of Justice to assess Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in ten areas in the United States, which culminated in the National Report, released in July 2009.



The findings:

- At least 100,000 children are used in prostitution every year in the United States (NCMEC)
- The average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old
- Misidentification is the primary barrier to services and intervention for DMST victims
- American children are easy targets because of their age – pre-teen and adolescent girls are especially susceptible to the deception of traffickers

Who are especially vulnerable to domestic minor sex trafficking?

▶ Youth with histories of abuse

- 41% of minors arrested for prostitution in Las Vegas from 2004 to 2006 had been victims of sexual assault; 21% had been victims of familial molestation.⁶
- WestCare Nevada treated 46 minors involved in prostitution from 2004-2005; 45 of them had a history of physical and/or sexual abuse.
- Sexual abuse - 28x more likely to be exploited through sex trafficking and prostitution.⁸

▶ 6 From Las Vegas Metro Police S.T.O.P. Program, Las Vegas. 2007

▶ 7 From the Dallas Police Department

▶ 8 Dr. Sharon Cooper

Who are especially vulnerable to domestic minor sex trafficking?(Continued)

▶ Homeless, runaway or “throwaway” youth

- 78% of children in prostitution had runaway 4 or more time in the past year.⁷
- In the U.S., 30% of shelter youth and 70% of street youth are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.⁹
- As many as 2.8 million kids living on the street.

▶ Youth within the foster care system & child protective services

- Over 700,000 children in the U.S. currently reside in some form of foster care.¹⁰

▪ 9 Estes, R. & Weiner, N.

10 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Why is it hard to identify domestic minor sex trafficking victims?

- ▶ Physically and/or psychologically controlled by pimps
- ▶ Trained by pimps to tell lies and false stories
- ▶ Victims' distrust of service providers & law enforcement
- ▶ Not self-identifying as a victim (minimizing abuse)
- ▶ Frequently moved from place to place
- ▶ Technology can help disguise the real age of the victim
- ▶ Easy to obtain fake I.D.s

Child Prostitute-Prosti-tot

- Insult/derogatory term
- Supports myths and misconceptions about prostitution
- A bad kid that has made poor choices
- Places blame on person rather than recognizing the organized crime structure
- Establishes a criminal justice response rather than victim/abuse response



Victim of Sex Trafficking/CSEC

- ▶ Defines what has happened to the child, rather than labeling the child
- ▶ Indicates that there are multiple factors, persons and systems involved in the crime
- ▶ Recognizes that a child cannot developmentally, socially, legally is not able to make a “choice” in commercial sex
- ▶ Identifies that a perpetrator exists and calls for a criminal response/justice for that perpetrator
- ▶ Identifies a victim and a person in need of support and services

Importance of Language

- ▶ Establishing a common language is essential in framing an issue
- ▶ Language defines the way we see an issue and determines how we respond
- ▶ Shift in language redefines this as child abuse rather than a juvenile justice issue
- ▶ Elevates emergency response

Who are the Traffickers?

- ▶ Pimp = Trafficker
- ▶ Can be a boyfriend, father, mother, brother, uncle, a coach, a teacher or anyone exerting control over a minor, even a peer or group of peers (i.e.: gang)
- ▶ Men and women of varying ages
- ▶ Any ethnicity or race
- ▶ Anyone who benefits from the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or facilitates the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor

The Game- Language

- ▶ The Life/The Game: refers to pimping, prostitution
- ▶ □
- ▶ Track: the area of town where prostitution occurs
- ▶ □
- ▶ Bottom –the person in a stable of victims who is appointed by the trafficker to manage, recruit and supervise the other girls
- ▶ Quota –the amount a victim must earn for her trafficker each night
- ▶ Daddy –the term a male trafficker often requires his victims to call him
- ▶ Branded –when a trafficker tattoos a victim to show ownership
- ▶ Family/Folks –term used to describe the environment created by the trafficker, and attempt to recreated the family structure so many youth lack
- ▶ Stable –the group of women that belong to a pimp
- ▶ Wifey/Wife in law –other women in the stable

- ▶ Renegade –a person involved in prostitution who is operating without a pimp/trafficker
- ▶ Gorilla Pimp: a pimp who uses violence and intimidation
- ▶ □
- ▶ Trick –refers to the client or the act of having sex with the client (ie: turning tricks)
- ▶ Choose up –when a female chooses a different pimp for herself
- ▶ □
- ▶ Eyeballing –when a victim looks into a pimp’s eyes (which could cause choosing up)
- ▶ Out of pocket –a term used to describe when a prostitute is operating without a pimp, of her own accord and in disregard to pimping rules
- ▶ Squaring Up –attempting to exit or escape prostitution
- ▶ □
- ▶ Turn out –to be forced into prostitution Trade up/Trade down –when a pimp buys or sells a person

The Games: Rules

1. Walk in the street
2. No eyeballing
3. Don't speak directly to your pimp on the street
4. Don't hand money openly to your pimp
5. Don't get in the car with certain men
6. Don't come home without your quota
7. No eating
8. Recruit other girls

If the child wants love, they give them love and become their boyfriend.

If they need a place to stay, they offer them a place to stay.

If they are lonely, they become their friend.

If they don't have a loving father, they become their "Daddy" and protector.

If they are poor or have low self-esteem, they sell them a dream of a life of status.



5 WAYS PIMPS MANIPULATE CHILDREN

Recruitment- Recruitment takes place at malls, bus stops, group homes and can have scout in schools. Trafficker/Pimp targets vulnerable youth such as runaways, youth that have been abused or have low self esteem. Also young girls as they have less experience and knowledge about relationships and are easier to manipulate.



Seduction

- ▶ The trafficker/pimp appears to care about the youth and is loving. They buy the youth clothes, iPods, get their hair done or nails done. They look for a need and then they fulfill that void in the child's life. This love and caring phase is what the victim will look back at when the relationship turns violent. The victim will do anything to try and get the seduction phase back.

Isolation

- ▶ The pimp gradually makes the victim reliant on him emotionally, financially and mentally. The pimp will tell them their family does not care or understand them like he does. The pimp will demand the youth spend all their time with them isolating them from their friends. This removes the safety net for the youth when the next phase begins.

Coercion and Violence

- ▶ The trafficker/pimp begins the manipulations to get the youth to prostitute to show her love for him. This may take the form of stating that he has provided for her, now she needs to help them reach the glamorous life they want. He may physically or emotionally abuse and tell her the abuse is her fault. He may beat her, starve her, force drugs on her or have her gang raped. He may withhold the affection that she wants from him.

Reframing

- ▶ The youth will be given a new name for their new life. They may be branded, to show they belong to the pimp. The pimp shapes the youth's view of how the rest of the world views them. He assigns shame, humiliation and guilt while building a sense of family. He is the Daddy and other girls in the stable are sisters or sisters in law.



The pimp wants to keep the victim in life of prostitution because they profit from the victim turning tricks or having “dates”. He determines how much money she charges, how much money she needs to make each day (her quota). He controls when she can eat, sleep, uses the bathroom, what she wears, who and when she talks on the phone. He controls every part of her life.



Signs to look for

- ▶ **Runaways**-pimps play on their vulnerabilities
- ▶ **Traveling from city to city**- where else have they had contact with law enforcement.
- ▶ **Relationships**- older boyfriends, older female that takes them in who maybe a bottom bitch. Do they hang out with other youth that are being trafficked?
- ▶ **Tattoo or brand**
- ▶ **Money, condoms, Viagra**- what do they have in their purse?






Why don't they just leave???

FEAR

- ▶ Fear of being beaten or killed. Fear of their family being hurt. Children are often recruited in their neighborhood and the pimp will remind them that he knows where they live.

- ▶ Fear of exposure-pimps may have taken pictures that they threatened to show their family. Fear of their family, friends or classmates finding out.





➤ They do not have anywhere else to go, runaways and abused children often say this.

➤ They may hope for the better future that was promised.



The pimp may tell
them their family
does not want them
or they will go to
juvie if they go home.

Stockholm Syndrome

- ▶ A victim in an abusive relationship emotionally bonds with their abuser as a survival strategy. The victim perceives the threat to their survival and believes the pimp would carry out the threat. The pimp will show some kindness to the victim. The victim is isolated from the perspectives of others. The victim does not see an escape to the situation. Stockholm Syndrome is called Trauma Bonding. The victim is confused by the conflicting feelings they have toward the offender.

Services- What is needed?

- ▶ Trained law enforcement
- ▶ Trained probation and detention staff
- ▶ Safe house
- ▶ Medical
- ▶ Trauma Therapy
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Job training
- ▶ Drug and Alcohol

Building Comprehensive Community Response

- ▶ Identify organizations within your community that are already working with at-risk populations
- ▶ Establish a streamlined process for identification that fits within the current structure
- ▶ Create a response protocol
- ▶ Establish a LE liaison (relationship is key)
- ▶ Services – ongoing case management, CSEC specific groups, therapy (trauma-informed)
- ▶ Shelter – build on existing systems and specialize – but MUST have a organizational response plan

Restoring the Victim/Offender

- ▶ No blaming or shaming- they are a survivor.
- ▶ Hold accountable for the crime they are on probation for, but understand that they may have been forced to commit it.
- ▶ Understand the trauma bond and conflicting feeling the youth has toward the pimp.
- ▶ Connect with resources trained in CSEC: confidential sexual assault advocate, mental health, drug and alcohol, family counseling and appropriate schooling.

Resources

- ▶ National Human Trafficking Resource Center
1-888-373-7888
- ▶ National Report on DMST
- ▶ GEMS Very Young Girls documentary
- ▶ DEMAND documentary (Shared Hope)
- ▶ Sex + Money documentary
- ▶ Protected Innocence Challenge Report
- ▶ Renting Lacey-book
- ▶ Somebody's daughter-book
- ▶ Girls like us-book